LEHIGH VALLEY CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

Mailing Address:

C.C.B.C.
P.O. Box 4031
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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of C.C.B.C. will be held on Tuesday Evening at 7:00P.M., March 7th. The address is CONFRONT, 1130 Walnut Street, Allentown. This meeting is especially concerned with the proposed BY-Laws, a copy of which should now have been received by every member. If you have not recived a copy, please contact Tim at 867-0241.

We wish to explain the fact that you may have recently received a Pa. Rural Gay Caucus Newsletter from C.C.B.C. This was simply a mistake. We did indeed wish to inform you that the Caucus would be meeting in Allentown, at Confront, on Saturday, March 4th, at 1:00P.M. You are invited to the Caucus meeting, which meetings have in recent times been mainly been concerned for the Conference at the Delaware Water Gap. To inform you a little about the Caucus, the Caucus is a unique gay phenomenon. First, it is specifically Rural (outside of Philadelphia and Allegheny) with a consiousness of the reality and concerns of small city and rural gay people as opposed to the more active and freer big cities. It was formed at the last state gay conference in Harrisburg in the fall of 1976. Originally, the Caucus was conceived as a forum for the exchange of ideas between Rural leaders. As it formalized with time and growth, the Caucus began to assume concerns of its own. Now the Caucus works primarily on a state level, coordinating statewide lobby efforts, or such events as the Conference. It holds special seats on certain committees of the Pa. Council for Sexual Minorities. And it acts a back-up for local g ay organizations in protesting for gays who have been hassled in various ways. The Caucus is willing to consider any action proposed to it. The Caucus meets in a different city each month ranging from West Chester to State College and Shippensburg. The present leadership is from Mechanicsburg, Williamsport, and Allentown. The membership is statewide. By meeting in a different part of the state each month, the Caucus is attended by various numbers of people from ten to forty, depending largely on the local input at any meeting. Last month, the meeting location was shared with Dignity, Central Pennsylvania (the gay Catholic organization), and shared a dinner with the membership of the group following the meetings.

Please note that we have enclosed the newsletter intended to be sent before the last meeting when C.C.B.C. convened as a discussion group. The discussion group met with mixed reviews, but we have adopted a resolution that meetings would alternate between business and discussion groups. We will, therefore, have the oppotunity to improve the idea of discussion groups. Your suggestions are welcome on this or any other subject you wish to introduce at the business meeting.

We wish to note a very alarming concern of the gay movement. The ERA is in serious trouble, and threatens to be lost if a great deal of work and attention is not devoted to it. The gaymovement has a very strong interest in it because of gay women in particular, and the benifits it would bring to gay men and society in general. NOW is generally the leadership of ERA activity. We have requested their special input at the next meeting. Anti-ERA forces are identified largely as the same which oppose gay issues, and they are <u>attacking</u>.

LGBT History Project
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Title: *Citizens Concerned for a Better Community (CCBC) Newsletter*

Date: February [28], 1978

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Contact:
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